

Fill in this information to identify your case:

United States Bankruptcy Court for the:

NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

Case number (if known)

Chapter you are filing under:

- Chapter 7
- Chapter 11
- Chapter 12
- Chapter 13

Check if this an amended filing

## Official Form 101

## Voluntary Petition for Individuals Filing for Bankruptcy

12/15

The bankruptcy forms use you and Debtor 1 to refer to a debtor filing alone. A married couple may file a bankruptcy case together—called a *joint* case—and in joint cases, these forms use you to ask for information from both debtors. For example, if a form asks, “Do you own a car,” the answer would be yes if either debtor owns a car. When information is needed about the spouses separately, the form uses *Debtor 1* and *Debtor 2* to distinguish between them. In joint cases, one of the spouses must report information as *Debtor 1* and the other as *Debtor 2*. The same person must be *Debtor 1* in all of the forms.

Be as complete and accurate as possible. If two married people are filing together, both are equally responsible for supplying correct information. If more space is needed, attach a separate sheet to this form. On the top of any additional pages, write your name and case number (if known). Answer every question.

### Part 1: Identify Yourself

#### About Debtor 1:

##### 1. Your full name

Write the name that is on your government-issued picture identification (for example, your driver's license or passport).

**Sterling**

First name

Middle name

**Sawyer**

Last name and Suffix (Sr., Jr., II, III)

#### About Debtor 2 (Spouse Only in a Joint Case):

First name

Middle name

Last name and Suffix (Sr., Jr., II, III)

##### 2. All other names you have used in the last 8 years

Include your married or maiden names.

##### 3. Only the last 4 digits of your Social Security number or federal Individual Taxpayer Identification number (ITIN)

**xxx-xx-8366**

Debtor 1 Sterling Sawyer

Case number (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

**About Debtor 1:**

**4. Any business names and Employer Identification Numbers (EIN) you have used in the last 8 years**

- I have not used any business name or EINs.

Include trade names and *doing business as* names

Business name(s)

EINs

**About Debtor 2 (Spouse Only in a Joint Case):**

- I have not used any business name or EINs.

Business name(s)

EINs

**5. Where you live**

**753 E. 79th Street, Apt #3R  
Chicago, IL 60619**

Number, Street, City, State & ZIP Code

**Cook**

County

**If your mailing address is different from the one above, fill it in here.** Note that the court will send any notices to you at this mailing address.

Number, P.O. Box, Street, City, State & ZIP Code

**If Debtor 2 lives at a different address:**

Number, Street, City, State & ZIP Code

County

**If Debtor 2's mailing address is different from yours, fill it in here.** Note that the court will send any notices to this mailing address.

Number, P.O. Box, Street, City, State & ZIP Code

**6. Why you are choosing this district to file for bankruptcy**

**Check one:**

- Over the last 180 days before filing this petition, I have lived in this district longer than in any other district.
- I have another reason.  
Explain. (See 28 U.S.C. § 1408.)

**Check one:**

- Over the last 180 days before filing this petition, I have lived in this district longer than in any other district.
- I have another reason.  
Explain. (See 28 U.S.C. § 1408.)

**Part 2: Tell the Court About Your Bankruptcy Case**

**7. The chapter of the Bankruptcy Code you are choosing to file under** Check one. (For a brief description of each, see *Notice Required by 11 U.S.C. § 342(b) for Individuals Filing for Bankruptcy (Form 2010)*). Also, go to the top of page 1 and check the appropriate box.

- Chapter 7  
 Chapter 11  
 Chapter 12  
 Chapter 13

**8. How you will pay the fee**  **I will pay the entire fee when I file my petition.** Please check with the clerk's office in your local court for more details about how you may pay. Typically, if you are paying the fee yourself, you may pay with cash, cashier's check, or money order. If your attorney is submitting your payment on your behalf, your attorney may pay with a credit card or check with a pre-printed address.  
 **I need to pay the fee in installments.** If you choose this option, sign and attach the *Application for Individuals to Pay The Filing Fee in Installments* (Official Form 103A).  
 **I request that my fee be waived** (You may request this option only if you are filing for Chapter 7. By law, a judge may, but is not required to, waive your fee, and may do so only if your income is less than 150% of the official poverty line that applies to your family size and you are unable to pay the fee in installments). If you choose this option, you must fill out the *Application to Have the Chapter 7 Filing Fee Waived* (Official Form 103B) and file it with your petition.

**9. Have you filed for bankruptcy within the last 8 years?**

- No.  
 Yes.

District	<u>NDIL, ED</u>	When	<u>2/18/16</u>	Case number	<u>16-05346 (C13)</u>
District	_____	When	_____	Case number	_____
District	_____	When	_____	Case number	_____

**10. Are any bankruptcy cases pending or being filed by a spouse who is not filing this case with you, or by a business partner, or by an affiliate?**

- No  
 Yes.

Debtor	_____	Relationship to you	_____		
District	_____	When	_____	Case number, if known	_____
Debtor	_____	Relationship to you	_____		
District	_____	When	_____	Case number, if known	_____

**11. Do you rent your residence?**

- No. Go to line 12.  
 Yes. Has your landlord obtained an eviction judgment against you and do you want to stay in your residence?  
 No. Go to line 12.  
 Yes. Fill out *Initial Statement About an Eviction Judgment Against You* (Form 101A) and file it with this bankruptcy petition.

**Part 3: Report About Any Businesses You Own as a Sole Proprietor**

**12. Are you a sole proprietor of any full- or part-time business?**

No. Go to Part 4.

Yes. Name and location of business

A sole proprietorship is a business you operate as an individual, and is not a separate legal entity such as a corporation, partnership, or LLC.

If you have more than one sole proprietorship, use a separate sheet and attach it to this petition.

Name of business, if any

Number, Street, City, State & ZIP Code

*Check the appropriate box to describe your business:*

- Health Care Business (as defined in 11 U.S.C. § 101(27A))
- Single Asset Real Estate (as defined in 11 U.S.C. § 101(51B))
- Stockbroker (as defined in 11 U.S.C. § 101(53A))
- Commodity Broker (as defined in 11 U.S.C. § 101(6))
- None of the above

**13. Are you filing under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code and are you a small business debtor?**

For a definition of *small business debtor*, see 11 U.S.C. § 101(51D).

*If you are filing under Chapter 11, the court must know whether you are a small business debtor so that it can set appropriate deadlines. If you indicate that you are a small business debtor, you must attach your most recent balance sheet, statement of operations, cash-flow statement, and federal income tax return or if any of these documents do not exist, follow the procedure in 11 U.S.C. 1116(1)(B).*

No. I am not filing under Chapter 11.

No. I am filing under Chapter 11, but I am NOT a small business debtor according to the definition in the Bankruptcy Code.

Yes. I am filing under Chapter 11 and I am a small business debtor according to the definition in the Bankruptcy Code.

**Part 4: Report if You Own or Have Any Hazardous Property or Any Property That Needs Immediate Attention**

**14. Do you own or have any property that poses or is alleged to pose a threat of imminent and identifiable hazard to public health or safety? Or do you own any property that needs immediate attention?**

*For example, do you own perishable goods, or livestock that must be fed, or a building that needs urgent repairs?*

No.

Yes.

What is the hazard?

If immediate attention is needed, why is it needed?

Where is the property?

Number, Street, City, State & Zip Code

**Part 5: Explain Your Efforts to Receive a Briefing About Credit Counseling**

**15. Tell the court whether you have received a briefing about credit counseling.**

The law requires that you receive a briefing about credit counseling before you file for bankruptcy. You must truthfully check one of the following choices. If you cannot do so, you are not eligible to file.

If you file anyway, the court can dismiss your case, you will lose whatever filing fee you paid, and your creditors can begin collection activities again.

**About Debtor 1:**

You must check one:

- I received a briefing from an approved credit counseling agency within the 180 days before I filed this bankruptcy petition, and I received a certificate of completion.

Attach a copy of the certificate and the payment plan, if any, that you developed with the agency.

- I received a briefing from an approved credit counseling agency within the 180 days before I filed this bankruptcy petition, but I do not have a certificate of completion.

Within 14 days after you file this bankruptcy petition, you MUST file a copy of the certificate and payment plan, if any.

- I certify that I asked for credit counseling services from an approved agency, but was unable to obtain those services during the 7 days after I made my request, and exigent circumstances merit a 30-day temporary waiver of the requirement.

To ask for a 30-day temporary waiver of the requirement, attach a separate sheet explaining what efforts you made to obtain the briefing, why you were unable to obtain it before you filed for bankruptcy, and what exigent circumstances required you to file this case.

Your case may be dismissed if the court is dissatisfied with your reasons for not receiving a briefing before you filed for bankruptcy. If the court is satisfied with your reasons, you must still receive a briefing within 30 days after you file. You must file a certificate from the approved agency, along with a copy of the payment plan you developed, if any. If you do not do so, your case may be dismissed.

Any extension of the 30-day deadline is granted only for cause and is limited to a maximum of 15 days.

- I am not required to receive a briefing about credit counseling because of:

**Incapacity.** I have a mental illness or a mental deficiency that makes me incapable of realizing or making rational decisions about finances.

**Disability.** My physical disability causes me to be unable to participate in a briefing in person, by phone, or through the internet, even after I reasonably tried to do so.

**Active duty.** I am currently on active military duty in a military combat zone.

If you believe you are not required to receive a briefing about credit counseling, you must file a motion for waiver of credit counseling with the court.

**About Debtor 2 (Spouse Only in a Joint Case):**

You must check one:

- I received a briefing from an approved credit counseling agency within the 180 days before I filed this bankruptcy petition, and I received a certificate of completion.

Attach a copy of the certificate and the payment plan, if any, that you developed with the agency.

- I received a briefing from an approved credit counseling agency within the 180 days before I filed this bankruptcy petition, but I do not have a certificate of completion.

Within 14 days after you file this bankruptcy petition, you MUST file a copy of the certificate and payment plan, if any.

- I certify that I asked for credit counseling services from an approved agency, but was unable to obtain those services during the 7 days after I made my request, and exigent circumstances merit a 30-day temporary waiver of the requirement.

To ask for a 30-day temporary waiver of the requirement, attach a separate sheet explaining what efforts you made to obtain the briefing, why you were unable to obtain it before you filed for bankruptcy, and what exigent circumstances required you to file this case.

Your case may be dismissed if the court is dissatisfied with your reasons for not receiving a briefing before you filed for bankruptcy.

If the court is satisfied with your reasons, you must still receive a briefing within 30 days after you file. You must file a certificate from the approved agency, along with a copy of the payment plan you developed, if any. If you do not do so, your case may be dismissed.

Any extension of the 30-day deadline is granted only for cause and is limited to a maximum of 15 days.

- I am not required to receive a briefing about credit counseling because of:

**Incapacity.** I have a mental illness or a mental deficiency that makes me incapable of realizing or making rational decisions about finances.

**Disability.** My physical disability causes me to be unable to participate in a briefing in person, by phone, or through the internet, even after I reasonably tried to do so.

**Active duty.** I am currently on active military duty in a military combat zone.

If you believe you are not required to receive a briefing about credit counseling, you must file a motion for waiver of credit counseling with the court.

Debtor 1 **Sterling Sawyer**

Case number (if known)

**Part 6: Answer These Questions for Reporting Purposes**

<b>16. What kind of debts do you have?</b>	<p>16a. <b>Are your debts primarily consumer debts?</b> Consumer debts are defined in 11 U.S.C. § 101(8) as “incurred by an individual primarily for a personal, family, or household purpose.”</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No. Go to line 16b.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes. Go to line 17.</p>
	<p>16b. <b>Are your debts primarily business debts?</b> Business debts are debts that you incurred to obtain money for a business or investment or through the operation of the business or investment.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No. Go to line 16c.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes. Go to line 17.</p>
	<p>16c. State the type of debts you owe that are not consumer debts or business debts</p> <hr/>
<p><b>17. Are you filing under Chapter 7?</b></p> <p><b>Do you estimate that after any exempt property is excluded and administrative expenses are paid that funds will be available for distribution to unsecured creditors?</b></p>	
<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No. I am not filing under Chapter 7. Go to line 18.</p>	
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes. I am filing under Chapter 7. Do you estimate that after any exempt property is excluded and administrative expenses are paid that funds will be available to distribute to unsecured creditors?</p>	
<p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p>	
<p><b>18. How many Creditors do you estimate that you owe?</b></p>	
<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1-49      <input type="checkbox"/> 1,000-5,000      <input type="checkbox"/> 25,001-50,000  <input type="checkbox"/> 50-99      <input type="checkbox"/> 5001-10,000      <input type="checkbox"/> 50,001-100,000  <input type="checkbox"/> 100-199      <input type="checkbox"/> 10,001-25,000      <input type="checkbox"/> More than 100,000  <input type="checkbox"/> 200-999</p>	
<p><b>19. How much do you estimate your assets to be worth?</b></p>	
<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$0 - \$50,000      <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000,001 - \$10 million      <input type="checkbox"/> \$500,000,001 - \$1 billion  <input type="checkbox"/> \$50,001 - \$100,000      <input type="checkbox"/> \$10,000,001 - \$50 million      <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000,000,001 - \$10 billion  <input type="checkbox"/> \$100,001 - \$500,000      <input type="checkbox"/> \$50,000,001 - \$100 million      <input type="checkbox"/> \$10,000,000,001 - \$50 billion  <input type="checkbox"/> \$500,001 - \$1 million      <input type="checkbox"/> \$100,000,001 - \$500 million      <input type="checkbox"/> More than \$50 billion</p>	
<p><b>20. How much do you estimate your liabilities to be?</b></p>	
<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$0 - \$50,000      <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000,001 - \$10 million      <input type="checkbox"/> \$500,000,001 - \$1 billion  <input type="checkbox"/> \$50,001 - \$100,000      <input type="checkbox"/> \$10,000,001 - \$50 million      <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000,000,001 - \$10 billion  <input type="checkbox"/> \$100,001 - \$500,000      <input type="checkbox"/> \$50,000,001 - \$100 million      <input type="checkbox"/> \$10,000,000,001 - \$50 billion  <input type="checkbox"/> \$500,001 - \$1 million      <input type="checkbox"/> \$100,000,001 - \$500 million      <input type="checkbox"/> More than \$50 billion</p>	

**Part 7: Sign Below**

For you

I have examined this petition, and I declare under penalty of perjury that the information provided is true and correct.

If I have chosen to file under Chapter 7, I am aware that I may proceed, if eligible, under Chapter 7, 11, 12, or 13 of title 11, United States Code. I understand the relief available under each chapter, and I choose to proceed under Chapter 7.

If no attorney represents me and I did not pay or agree to pay someone who is not an attorney to help me fill out this document, I have obtained and read the notice required by 11 U.S.C. § 342(b).

I request relief in accordance with the chapter of title 11, United States Code, specified in this petition.

I understand making a false statement, concealing property, or obtaining money or property by fraud in connection with a bankruptcy case can result in fines up to \$250,000, or imprisonment for up to 20 years, or both. 18 U.S.C. §§ 152, 1341, 1519, and 3571.

**/s/ Sterling Sawyer**

**Sterling Sawyer**  
Signature of Debtor 1

Signature of Debtor 2

Executed on March 8, 2016  
MM / DD / YYYY

Executed on \_\_\_\_\_  
MM / DD / YYYY

Debtor 1 Sterling Sawyer**For your attorney, if you are represented by one**

I, the attorney for the debtor(s) named in this petition, declare that I have informed the debtor(s) about eligibility to proceed under Chapter 7, 11, 12, or 13 of title 11, United States Code, and have explained the relief available under each chapter for which the person is eligible. I also certify that I have delivered to the debtor(s) the notice required by 11 U.S.C. § 342(b) and, in a case in which § 707(b)(4)(D) applies, certify that I have no knowledge after an inquiry that the information in the schedules filed with the petition is incorrect.

**/s/ George M. Vogl, IV ARDC #**

Signature of Attorney for Debtor

Date

**March 8, 2016**

MM / DD / YYYY

**George M. Vogl, IV ARDC #**

Printed name

**Ledford, Wu & Borges, LLC**

Firm name

**105 W. Madison****23rd Floor****Chicago, IL 60602**

Number, Street, City, State &amp; ZIP Code

Contact phone **312-853-0200**

Email address

**notice@billbusters.com****6273590**

Bar number &amp; State

**United States Bankruptcy Court**  
**Northern District of Illinois**

In re **Sterling Sawyer**

Debtor(s)

Case No.

**13**

**DISCLOSURE OF COMPENSATION OF ATTORNEY FOR DEBTOR(S)**

1. Pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 329(a) and Fed. Bankr. P. 2016(b), I certify that I am the attorney for the above named debtor(s) and that compensation paid to me within one year before the filing of the petition in bankruptcy, or agreed to be paid to me, for services rendered or to be rendered on behalf of the debtor(s) in contemplation of or in connection with the bankruptcy case is as follows:

For legal services, I have agreed to accept .....	\$ <b>4,000.00</b>
Prior to the filing of this statement I have received .....	\$ <b>0.00</b>
Balance Due .....	\$ <b>4,000.00</b>

2. \$ **310.00** of the filing fee has been paid.

3. The source of the compensation paid to me was:

Debtor       Other (specify):

4. The source of compensation to be paid to me is:

Debtor       Other (specify):

5.  I have not agreed to share the above-disclosed compensation with any other person unless they are members and associates of my law firm.

I have agreed to share the above-disclosed compensation with a person or persons who are not members or associates of my law firm. A copy of the agreement, together with a list of the names of the people sharing in the compensation is attached.

6. In return for the above-disclosed fee, I have agreed to render legal service for all aspects of the bankruptcy case, including:

- a. Analysis of the debtor's financial situation, and rendering advice to the debtor in determining whether to file a petition in bankruptcy;
- b. Preparation and filing of any petition, schedules, statement of affairs and plan which may be required;
- c. Representation of the debtor at the meeting of creditors and confirmation hearing, and any adjourned hearings thereof;
- d. [Other provisions as needed]

**Exemption planning; preparation and filing of reaffirmation agreements and applications as needed; preparation and filing of motions pursuant to 11 USC 522(f)(2)(A) for avoidance of liens on household goods.**

7. By agreement with the debtor(s), the above-disclosed fee does not include the following service:

**Representation of the debtors in any dischargeability actions or any other adversary proceeding.**

**CERTIFICATION**

I certify that the foregoing is a complete statement of any agreement or arrangement for payment to me for representation of the debtor(s) in this bankruptcy proceeding.

March 8, 2016

Date

/s/ George M. Vogl, IV ARDC #

**George M. Vogl, IV ARDC # 6273590**

*Signature of Attorney*

**Ledford, Wu & Borges, LLC**

**105 W. Madison**

**23rd Floor**

**Chicago, IL 60602**

**312-853-0200 Fax: 312-873-4693**

**notice@billbusters.com**

*Name of law firm*

**LEDFORD, WU & BORGES, LLC**  
105 W. Madison, 23<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Chicago, IL 60602  
(312)853-0200 Fax: (312)873-4693  
**CONSULTATION AGREEMENT**

FOR OFFICE USE
Client No. <u>66927</u>
Interviewing Attorney: _____
Date: <u>2/29/16</u>

THIS AGREEMENT IS REQUIRED BY FEDERAL LAW (11 U.S.C. § 528(a))

1. **Parties:** In this contract, "Client" means the undersigned, both individually and jointly; "Attorney" means the law firm of Ledford, Wu & Borges, LLC and its staff attorneys.
2. **Purpose:** Client has requested the opportunity to consult with and obtain information and advice from Attorney concerning options for relief from debts, which may include filing bankruptcy. This agreement is for purposes of that consultation only.
3. **Client's Duties:** In order for Attorney to give meaningful advice, Client agrees to give accurate, honest, full and fair disclosure of financial information concerning income over the past three years from all sources, monthly living expenses, the type and amount of all debts (including names and addresses of all creditors), all assets and property owned by the client, wherever located and by whomever held, and any additional information determined by Attorney to be relevant.
4. **Services:** The attorney agrees to provide Client with the following services:
  - a. analyzing Client's financial circumstances based on information provided by Client;
  - b. to the extent possible, advising Client of bankruptcy options and non-bankruptcy options based on the information provided by Client;
  - c. if Client has not provided Attorney with sufficient information upon which to fully advise Client on Client's options, informing Client what additional information Client needs to provide in order to enable Attorney to provide such advice and information;
  - d. where applicable, advising Client of the requirements placed upon Client to file a bankruptcy; and
  - e. to the extent possible, quoting a fee for providing bankruptcy and/or nonbankruptcy assistance to Client

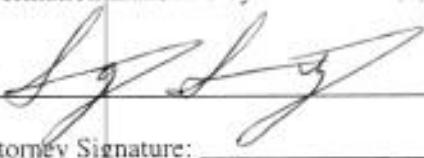
5. **Fees (check one):**

A consultation fee will be waived if Client decides not to retain Attorney, in which case the attorney-client relationship shall terminate at the conclusion of the interview

Client agrees to pay \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in nonrefundable consultation fee

In the event Client decides to retain Attorney, this consultation becomes billable and is covered by the legal fee charged for the case, and a new written contract, as well as a Court-Approved Retention Agreement if applicable, must be signed by Client and Attorney, which shall supersede this agreement. The new agreement(s) will also provide a detailed explanation of the parties' obligations and a breakdown of the costs.

6. **Acknowledgement:** Client acknowledges that the first date upon which Attorney provided any bankruptcy assistance to Client is the date noted above, and that Attorney provided Client with a copy of this agreement and the disclosure and information mandated by Section 527(b) of the Bankruptcy Code.

X  X 2/29/16 Date: / /  
Attorney Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ ARDC #: \_\_\_\_\_

**Disclosure Pursuant to 11 U.S.C. §527(a)(2)**

You are notified:

1. All information that you are required to provide with a petition and thereafter during a case under the Bankruptcy Code is required to be complete, accurate, and truthful.
2. All assets and all liabilities are required to be completely and accurately disclosed in the documents filed to commence the case. Some places in the Bankruptcy Code require that you list the replacement value of each asset. This must be the replacement value of the property at the date of filing the petition, without deducting for costs of sale or marketing, established after a reasonable inquiry. For property acquired for personal, family, or household use, replacement value means the price a retail merchant would charge for property of that kind, considering the age and condition of the property.
3. The following information, which appear on Official Form 22, Statement of Current Monthly Income, are required to be stated after reasonable inquiry: current monthly income, the amounts specified in section 707(b)(2), and, in a case under chapter 13 of the Bankruptcy Code, disposable income (determined in accordance with section 707(b)(2)).
4. Information that you provide during your case may be audited pursuant to provisions of the Bankruptcy Code. Failure to provide such information may result in dismissal of the case under this title or other sanction, including criminal sanctions.

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT BANKRUPTCY ASSISTANCE SERVICES FROM AN ATTORNEY OR BANKRUPTCY PETITION PREPARER**

If you decide to seek bankruptcy relief, you can represent yourself, you can hire an attorney to represent you, or you can get help in some localities from a bankruptcy petition preparer who is not an attorney. THE LAW REQUIRES AN ATTORNEY OR BANKRUPTCY PETITION PREPARER TO GIVE YOU A WRITTEN CONTRACT SPECIFYING WHAT THE ATTORNEY OR BANKRUPTCY PETITION PREPARER WILL DO FOR YOU AND HOW MUCH IT WILL COST. Ask to see the contract before you hire anyone.

The following information helps you understand what must be done in a routine bankruptcy case to help you evaluate how much service you need. Although bankruptcy can be complex, many cases are routine.

Before filing a bankruptcy case, either you or your attorney should analyze your eligibility for different forms of debt relief available under the Bankruptcy Code and which form of relief is most likely to be beneficial for you. Be sure you understand the relief you can obtain and its limitations. To file a bankruptcy case, documents called a Petition, Schedules and Statement of Financial Affairs, as well as in some cases a Statement of Intention need to be prepared correctly and filed with the bankruptcy court. You will have to pay a filing fee to the bankruptcy court. Once your case starts, you will have to attend the required first meeting of the creditors where you may be questioned by a court official called a 'trustee' and by creditors.

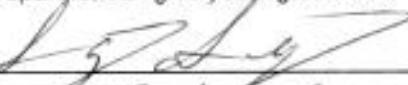
If you choose to file a chapter 7 case, you may be asked by a creditor to reaffirm a debt. You may want help deciding whether to do so. A creditor is not permitted to coerce you into reaffirming your debts.

If you choose to file a chapter 13 case in which you repay your creditors what you can afford over 3 to 5 years, you may also want help with preparing your chapter 13 plan and with the confirmation hearing on your plan which will be before a bankruptcy judge.

If you select another type of relief under the Bankruptcy Code other than chapter 7 or chapter 13, you will want to find out what should be done from someone familiar with that type of relief.

Your bankruptcy case may also involve litigation. You are generally permitted to represent yourself in litigation in bankruptcy court, but only attorneys, not bankruptcy petition preparers, can give you legal advice.

Received on: 2/29/16

Signed: 

Print Name: Sterling Sawyer

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**ATTORNEY RETENTION CONTRACT**

1. **Parties.** In this contract, "Client" means the undersigned, both individually and jointly; "Attorney" means Ledford, Wu & Borges, LLC and its staff attorneys. This contract shall supersede any prior contracts and agreements between the parties to the extent of inconsistency. **In the event of any inconsistency between this contract and a Court-Approved Retention Agreement, the latter shall prevail.**

2. **Services:** Client retains Attorney for the following services:  Chapter 13 bankruptcy (debt adjustment)

**3. Scope of Representation:**

(a) Attorney will counsel and represent Client in all aspects of the above matter(s) for the fee specified in Paragraph 4 EXCEPT: (1) adversary proceedings; (2) post-discharge litigation; (3) appeals; (4) other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

(b) Attorney may agree, but is not obligated, to represent Client in the above excluded matters for an additional fee, to be agreed upon separately by the parties.

**4. Fees:**

Legal fee: \$ 4,000 PLUS \$310 filing fee (court cost) (an additional Court-Approved Retention Agreement may apply) \$310

Expenses: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (merged credit report and credit counseling)

TOTAL: \$ 4,000 less retainer received: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Fee balance: \$ 4,000 To be paid by: \_\_\_\_\_

The legal fee is an  advance payment retainer  security retainer  classic retainer, and is a flat fee unless otherwise stated. Attorney is unable to represent Client without receiving an advance payment retainer since a security retainer will be within the reach of Client's creditors. Should hourly billing be necessary, Attorney's billing rates are \$300-\$400/hour for partners, \$250/hour for associates, and \$90/hour for law clerks. The filing fee and expenses are subject to change at any time. The billing rates are subject to an annual review and potential increase every calendar year.

The legal fee covers the initial consultation and all subsequent work. The case may be closed if the fees are not paid by the deadline. Additional legal fees may apply if the parties have entered into a Court-Approved Retention Agreement and such Agreement so authorizes, or if the case is converted from one chapter to another. Additional court costs may apply for amending a petition, list, schedule or statement post-filing or other reasons not due to Attorney's fault. NSF checks will be assessed a \$20 fee.

**5. Initial Consultation.** Client acknowledges that Attorney has explained the following (please initial):

The options of Chapter 7 and Chapter 13 and that Client has made the choice identified in Paragraph 2

The concepts of exemption, discharge and dischargeability, and pre-filing and post-filing procedures

The difference among various types of retainer and that Client has made the choice identified in Paragraph 4

A Chapter 13 plan will be submitted to the Court in good faith. The plan payment may have to increase if creditor claims come in higher than scheduled, creditors successfully argue that they are entitled to a higher interest rate, the Trustee successfully argues that the budgeted income is lower than actual income, the Trustee successfully argues that budgeted expenses are unreasonably high or the Court makes a finding that the plan is not the best effort you can make to repay your creditors.

**TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE.** Any delay on Client's part may disqualify Client for the type of relief elected or otherwise adversely affect Client's case. Attorney may not be able to file the case, or take other necessary actions, until all requested documents and/or information, including but not limited to a certificate of credit counseling, are received by Attorney

Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

Client understands that the advice given during the initial consultation is preliminary and based on the information available at the time, and may change as the case is further analyzed, more facts discovered, or Client's circumstances or the law changed.

**6. Client's Duties.** Client agrees, during the course of representation, to:

(a) provide Attorney with full, accurate and timely information, financial and otherwise;

(b) follow Attorney's procedures and cooperate with Attorney in providing requested documents and information;

(c) promptly inform Attorney of any change of address, phone number, e-mail address or employment, or activation of military duty;

(d) inform Attorney before buying, selling, refinancing or transferring any real property in which Client has any interest, and before incurring any new debt, including but not limited to applying for an auto loan, personal loan, payday loan or title loan, applying for a credit card or line of credit, or using an existing credit card or line of credit; and

(e) promptly inform Attorney if Client becomes entitled to an inheritance, an asset as a result of a property settlement agreement with Client's spouse or a divorce decree, life insurance proceeds, or a monetary judgment, award or settlement.

7. **Co-counsel.** Client understands that more than one attorney may work on this case. Where necessary, Client agrees to employ outside counsel, at Attorney's expense, to work on this case, including: Kathleen W. Vaught, Kelly M. Johnson, David Carter, or Christina Banyon.

8. **Termination.** Client may discharge Attorney at any time, subject to payment of any fee owed for the services already rendered. Attorney may terminate the representation as permitted by the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct and Local Bankruptcy Rules. Any flat fee for a bankruptcy case is advance payment for future services, becomes Attorney's property upon receipt, and is nonrefundable upon filing of the petition. In the event the representation is terminated by either party before filing and Client has paid Attorney more than \$300, Attorney will provide Client with a detailed itemization of the services rendered in support of any fee charged at the rate set forth in Paragraph 4, and Client will reimburse Attorney for any expenses, including those that otherwise would be free of charge, and authorizes Attorney to apply the filing fee and any payment for expenses that have not been incurred towards the attorney's fee, subject to the requirements set forth herein.

X \_\_\_\_\_ Date: / /  
Attorney Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ ARDC # 6272590

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